

Opinion of the Court.

SPRINGVILLE v. THOMAS.

ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH.

No. 103. Argued and submitted October 29, 1896. — Decided April 26, 1897.

SALT LAKE CITY BREWING COMPANY v. FRED.
W. WOLF COMPANY.

ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH.

No. 153. Submitted January 14, 1897. — Decided April 26, 1897.

SALT LAKE CITY v. TUCKER.

ERROR TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH.

No. 199. Submitted January 29, 1897. — Decided April 26, 1897.

The judgments in these cases are reversed on the authority of *American Publishing Co. v. Fisher*, ante, 464.

THE case is stated in the opinion.

Mr. J. L. Rawlins for plaintiff in error in No. 103.

Mr. Parley L. Williams for defendants in error in No. 103.

Mr. William C. Hall for plaintiff in error in No. 153.

Mr. Parley L. Williams, Mr. Frank Pierce and *Mr. Frank H. Scott* for defendant in error in No. 153.

Mr. William McKay and *Mr. D. B. Hempstead* for plaintiff in error in No. 199.

Mr. William T. S. Curtis for defendants in error in No. 199.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER delivered the opinion of the court.

In these three cases judgments were entered on verdicts returned by less than the whole number of jurors, by which they

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were tried. It has been decided by this court that the territorial act of March 10, 1892, permitting this to be done, Laws Utah, 1892, p. 46, was invalid, because in contravention of the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution and the act of Congress of April 7, 1874, 18 Stat. 27, c. 80. *American Publishing Co. v. Fisher*, ante, 464.

Exceptions to the course pursued were sufficiently preserved and the judgments must be reversed if this court has jurisdiction.

The amounts in controversy in each instance were not sufficient to give jurisdiction, and the inquiry is whether the validity of any statute of, or authority exercised under, the United States was drawn in question before the courts below. Act March 3, 1885, 23 Stat. 443, c. 355, § 2.

The Supreme Court of the Territory held in *Hess v. White*, 9 Utah, 61 (and the decision was followed in these cases), that the act of Congress of September 9, 1850, 9 Stat. 453, c. 51, § 6, the organic act of the Territory, vested in the territorial legislature such unlimited legislative power as enabled it to provide that unanimity of action on the part of jurors in civil cases was not necessary to a valid verdict. But defendants contended that the act of Congress as thus interpreted was in violation of the Seventh Amendment and the validity of the act was in that way drawn in question. In the view which the Supreme Court took of the act it was obliged to subject it to the test of the Constitution, and accordingly in deciding that the Seventh Amendment did not require unanimity of action, the court held in effect that the act of Congress was constitutional although it empowered the territorial legislature to provide for verdicts by less than the whole number of jurors. The question involved was not matter of construction of the territorial act, but the court discussed its validity, and this depended on the validity of the act of Congress giving it the scope which the court attributed to it.

In this there was error. In our opinion the Seventh Amendment secured unanimity in finding a verdict as an essential feature of trial by jury in common law cases, and the act of

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Congress could not impart the power to change the constitutional rule, and could not be treated as attempting to do so.

These cases are exceptional, and, under the peculiar circumstances, we think jurisdiction may be maintained.

Judgments reversed, and cases remanded to the Supreme Court of the State for further proceedings.

LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY v. LOUISVILLE.

ERROR TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY.

No. 261. Argued April 1, 1897. — Decided April 26, 1897.

After the trial court and the Superior Court had disposed of this case without any Federal question having been raised, the railroad company moved to set the judgment aside and transfer the case to the Court of Appeals on the ground that the statutes, as construed by the state court in its opinion, were invalid and in violation of the Constitution. This motion being denied an appeal was granted to the Court of Appeals where it was claimed in argument that the state statute as construed impaired the obligation created by the charter of the company, and denied the equal protection of the laws, in contravention of the Fourteenth Amendment. *Held*, that the record did not show that a Federal question had been raised below in time and in a way to give this court jurisdiction.

THIS was a case instituted in the Louisville Chancery Court by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company against the city of Louisville by the filing of an agreed case under the following provisions of the Civil Code of Practice of the State of Kentucky:

“SEC. 637. Parties to a question which might be the subject of a civil action may, without action, state the question and the facts upon which it depends, and present a submission thereof to any court which would have jurisdiction, if an action had been brought. But it must appear by affidavit that the controversy is real, and the proceedings in good